

Claims

What is claimed is:

1 1. A real estate sign for a real estate property to interactively communicate
2 with a portable receiver, the real estate sign comprising a wireless communication
3 system attached to the real estate sign wirelessly transmitting property
4 information relating to the real estate property to the portable receiver.

1 2. The real estate sign according to claim 1, further comprising an earth
2 battery powering the real estate sign and the wireless communication system.

1 3. The real estate sign according to claim 1, wherein the wireless
2 communication system communicates via a short-range wireless electromagnetic
3 signal.

1 4. The real estate sign according to claim 1, wherein the portable receiver may
2 be a client configured device or a controlling agent configured device.

1 5. The real estate sign according to claim 4, wherein the real estate sign is
2 networked with a remote real estate agent office and the client configured device
3 or the controlling agent configured device is capable of interactively
4 communicating with the remote real estate agent office via the real estate sign.

1 6. The real estate sign according to claim 5, wherein the wireless
2 communication system transmits property information relating to the real estate
3 property to the client configured device when the client configured device is
4 within a predetermined proximity of the real estate sign and the real estate sign
5 detects the presence of the client configured device.

1 7. The real estate sign according to claim 1, wherein the real estate sign can be
2 shared by multiple properties.

1 8. The real estate sign according to claim 5, wherein the controlling agent
2 configured device is capable of controlling access to the real estate property via the
3 real estate sign.

1 9. An apparatus comprising:

2 a real estate sign corresponding to a real estate property having a wireless
3 communication system embedded therein wirelessly communicating
4 information about the piece of property; and

5 an electronic lock box receiving information from said real estate sign and
6 controlling access to the real estate property.

1 10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said electronic lock box is
2 hermetically sealed.

1 11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the electronic lock box is
 2 capable of receiving requests and transmitting information about the real estate
 3 property to a transmitting/receiving device located within a predetermined
 4 proximity of the electronic lock box.

1 12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the real estate sign includes a
 2 display displaying the information about the real estate property.

1 13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the information about the real
 2 estate property includes at least one of the group comprising a price of the real
 3 estate property, a square footage of the real estate property, a virtual tour of the
 4 real estate property, a number of bedrooms within the real estate property and an
 5 availability of the real estate property.

1 14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the electronic lock box is
 2 capable of holding at least one key therein.

1 15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the transmitting/receiving
 2 device is one of a client configured device and a controlling agent device, the client
 3 configured device capable of requesting information about the real estate property
 4 from the electronic lock box or the real estate sign, transmitting queries about the
 5 real estate property to either the electronic lock box or the real estate sign,
 6 transmitting client information to the electronic lock box or the real estate sign,
 7 transmitting client information to a remote real estate office via the electronic lock
 8 box or the real estate sign, viewing information received from either the electronic
 9 lock box or the real estate sign or recording voice or text messages in the electronic
 10 lock box or real estate sign.

1 16. The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the controlling agent device
 2 is capable of performing all client configured device functions and is further
 3 capable of at least enabling, programming and disabling the real estate sign and
 4 the electronic lock box , overriding access restrictions of the real estate sign and
 5 the electronic lock box, viewing information stored by the real estate sign and the
 6 electronic lock box, downloading information stored by the real estate sign and
 7 the electronic lock box, interacting with other premises electronic equipment, and
 8 maintaining the electronic lock box and the real estate sign.

1 17. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the electronic lock box
 2 comprises at least one of the group consisting of a memory, a proximity device
 3 reader, a display, a clock and an alarm.

1 18. The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the electronic lock box is
 2 capable of storing at least one of a group comprising a time of a visit to the real
 3 estate property, a duration of the visit to the real estate property, an identity of a
 4 person who visited the real estate property and comments and/or suggestions
 5 from the person who visited the real estate property.

1 19. The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the electronic lock box can
 2 communicate via network to a controlling real estate office, the controlling real
 3 estate office transmitting a control signal to the electronic lock box to permit access
 4 to the real estate property.

1 20. The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the electronic lock box is
 2 capable of recording an attempt to gain access to the real estate property.

1 21. The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the electronic lock box can
2 restrict access to the real estate property based upon communicated entry rules.

1 22. A real estate system comprising:

2 a real estate sign having a wireless communication system embedded therein
3 located within a predetermined distance from a real estate property;

4 an electronic lock box having a wireless communication system wirelessly
5 communicating with the real estate sign and controlling access to real estate
6 property; and

7 a transmitting/receiving device, wherein the transmitting receiving device can
8 transmit information to/from the real estate sign or the electronic lock box
9 about the real estate property.

1 23. The apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising an antenna
2 attached to the real estate sign and connected to the wireless communication
3 system.

- 1 24. A method of marketing a real estate property comprising:
 - 2 providing a real estate sign within a predetermined proximity of the real estate
 - 3 property;
 - 4 receiving, by the real estate sign, queries about the real estate property from a
 - 5 transmitting/receiving device; and
 - 6 transmitting information about the real estate property from the real estate
 - 7 sign to the transmitting/receiving device.